How Chat GPT Can Transform Autodidactic Experiences and Open Education?

Preprint - January 2023		
DOI: 10.31219/ostio/9ge8m		
CITATIONS		READS
24		37,679
		,
1 author:		
	Mehmet Firat	
	Anadolu University	
	143 PUBLICATIONS 1,071 CITATIONS	
	SEE PROFILE	
Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:		
Project	Open and Distance Learning Analytics View project	
Project	Why Open and Distance Learning View project	

How ChatGPT Can Transform Autodidactic Experiences and Open Education?

Dr. Mehmet Firat

Department of Distance Education, Open Education Faculty, Anadolu University,

mfirat@anadolu.edu.tr

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8707-5918

Abstract

Chat GPT, powered by the advanced GPT-3 language model from OpenAI, has reached 1 million users only in 5 days. Facebook, Netflix, Instagram, and Twitter could reach this number in 300, 1200, 75, and 720 days. With 175 billion parameters, GPT-3 could generate writing that closely resembles human language. Officially announced on March 13, GPT-4 is much more reliable, creative, and nuanced. Backed by GPT-4 model, ChatGPT can engage in multiple ongoing conversations, understand and respond to natural language input, and offer customized and interactive assistance. This makes ChatGPT a promising tool for open education, as it can improve the independence and autonomy of autodidactic learners, while also being both practical and adaptable. By providing personalized support, direction, and feedback, ChatGPT has the potential to increase motivation and engagement among autodidactic learners.

Keywords: ChatGPT, GPT-3, GPT-4, OpenAI, NLP, open education, autodidactic

Introduction

Digital world requires a certain kind of "autodidactic" profile, characterized by a strong motivation to learn, the ability to find and effectively use digital resources, and a willingness to take ownership of one's own learning process. Employers are increasingly looking for candidates with these qualities as they are better equipped to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the digital world (Manning et al. 2022). Autodidactic learning, or self-directed learning, refers to the process of learning independently, without the guidance or support of a teacher or instructor (Candy, 1991; Garrison, 1997). Autodidactic learning relies on the autonomy and independence of the learner to drive their own learning process, and is often characterized by the use of open educational resources (OER) and other open educational practices (Caswell et al. 2008). Autodidactic learning allows learners to take control of their own learning and development, and to learn at their own pace and in a way that is tailored to their individual needs and goals (Gureckis & Markant, 2012; Schweder & Raufelder, 2022).

OERs and other open educational practices are becoming more widely available, making it simpler for anyone to acquire high-quality learning resources and materials. This has helped to democratize education and make it more accessible and inexpensive (Caswell et al. 2008). Currently, Chat GPT, a new AI innovation by Open AI that reached 1 million users in just 5 days (Haque et al. 2022), looks aspirational enough to further this assistance. The study of Chat GPT's ability to enhance autodidactic learning is crucial for a number of reasons. It may identify the best practices and approaches for utilizing chatbots and other artificial intelligence (AI) tools in education, as well as provide guidance for the future of education and the use of technology to learning. Educators and students may more effectively use these technologies to help and enhance their own learning and development by being aware of how Chat GPT can support the independence and independent study of autodidactic learners. This study may be used by policymakers to develop plans for incorporating these technologies into educational environments and procedures.

ChatGPT and Its Capabilities

The GPT-3 language model is used by ChatGPT, a chatbot, to produce replies in response to user input (OpenAI, 2023). Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3, or GPT-3, is a large-scale language model created by OpenAI that can produce text with 175 billion parameters. It has been trained on a vast quantity of data (Brown et al., 2020). Chat GPT makes advantage of GPT-3's capabilities to provide replies to user input in a conversational and natural way (OpenAI, 2023).

Understanding and responding to input in natural language is one of Chat GPT's primary characteristics. Natural language processing (NLP) is used by Chat GPT to examine user input and produce pertinent answers (LeCun et al., 2015). This enables users to converse with Chat GPT in a way that seems natural and intuitive, much as they would converse with a person (OpenAI, 2023). The capacity of Chat GPT to offer consumers individualized and interactive help is another important aspect. With the use of user input, Chat GPT can adjust its replies and offer specialized advice and assistance. According on a user's learning objectives and preferences, Chat GPT might be used, for instance, to make tailored recommendations for educational products and sites.

Regarding specific technical information, Chat GPT is often implemented as a chatbot that may be accessed through a number of platforms, including a website, a smartphone app, or a messaging service (OpenAI, 2023). Users may use text or voice to connect with Chat GPT, and Chat GPT will respond in real time. In order to accommodate several users simultaneously, Chat GPT is often built to be able to manage multiple concurrent chats with various users. The GPT-3 language model is used by Chat GPT, a potent chatbot, to deliver tailored and interactive help to users in a conversational and natural way. It is a useful tool for encouraging the independence and independent study of autodidactic learners due to its capacity to comprehend and respond to natural language input as well as to offer individualized recommendations and help.

How Chat GPT Can Transform Autodidactic Experiences?

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) tools like Chat GPT has the potential to completely alter how students approach their academics and the realm of education. Related literature has shown how AI technology may help and improve learning (Patil and Abraham, 2010; Pham and Sampson, 2022). AI-based tutoring programs can enhance students' performance and motivation in learning environments (Srinivasa, Kurni and Saritha, 2022). By offering tailored and interactive help to students, AI technologies like chatbots can improve the learning experience and boost student participation in online courses. By offering individualized and interactive help, Chat GPT has the ability to encourage the independence and independent study of autodidactic learners.

By offering individualized and interactive help that is catered to each learner's unique requirements and preferences, Chat GPT may not only encourage learners' autonomy but also improve the learning experiences. For instance, Chat GPT can be used to offer individualized suggestions for reading material and other resources, or to offer interactive tasks and activities that are catered to the unique requirements and learning objectives of students. Currently, Chat GPT has a number of uses for self-directed learners. Here are five ways that Chat GPT could alter encounters with self-directed learning:

- 1. *Personalized support:* By adjusting its suggestions and replies to each learner's choices and goals, Chat GPT may offer tailored and interactive help to self-directed learners. For students who might not have access to more conventional support networks like a teacher or mentor, this could be very helpful.
- 2. Real-time feedback and guidance: Autodidactic learners can receive real-time feedback and direction from Chat GPT as they progress through the course materials and resources. This can assist students in staying on task and addressing any issues or problems they might run across.
- 3. *Increased accessibility:* Learners who might not have access to conventional educational materials will find Chat GPT to be more accessible since it can be accessed through a variety of platforms, including a website, a smartphone app, or a messaging service.
- 4. *Convenient and flexible learning:* Autodidactic learners can study using Chat GPT at their own speed and on their own terms since they may talk to the chatbot whenever it's convenient for them.
- 5. Enhancing the use of open educational resources: As it can offer individualized suggestions and advice on how to utilize these resources successfully, Chat GPT can assist self-directed learners in finding and utilizing open educational materials. This can assist students in utilizing the vast array of online learning tools and materials.
- 6. *Self-assessment and reflection*: Learners may utilize Chat GPT to reflect on their own progress and learning, as well as to pinpoint any areas where they might want further assistance or direction.

In addition to offering interactive exercises and games that are catered to the learner's particular learning needs, Chat GPT may be used to deliver personalized suggestions for learning materials and resources based on a learner's individual needs and objectives. This interactive and individualized support can improve learning and encourage engagement and motivation. The usage of Chat GPT as a tutor or mentor is another contemporary Chat GPT use for self-taught learners. As students' progress through learning materials and resources, Chat GPT may be used to provide them feedback and assistance, keeping them on pace and encouraged. In order to assist students, take charge of their own learning, Chat GPT may also be used to offer advice and support as they create their own learning objectives and strategies. Finally, the Chat GPT may be utilized as a self-evaluation and reflection tool. Learners may utilize Chat GPT to reflect on their own progress and learning, as well as to pinpoint any areas where they might want further assistance or direction. This self-evaluation and reflection process can assist students in taking responsibility for their own learning and growth as well as in building the abilities and methods necessary for success as self-directed learners.

Conclusion

Computers can now analyze and understand data using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, which enables them to make predictions or judgments based on the data (Zhou, 2021). Systems that can handle a lot of data and use it to provide precise and pertinent replies are built using these technologies. Noting how AI differs from search engines, which only gather and publish information rather than drawing fresh insights from it (Heaven, 2022).

The latest iteration of OpenAI's language model, GPT-4, serves as an exemplary illustration of how artificial intelligence can revolutionize self-directed learning experiences for students. By leveraging the extraordinary capabilities of GPT-4 in natural language understanding and generation, students can access personalized and contextually appropriate information, expedite

their knowledge acquisition processes, and develop more profound insights. This advanced AI model can facilitate interactive and dynamic learning environments, enabling individuals to engage in constructive dialogues, address doubts, and explore diverse perspectives. Furthermore, GPT-4's proficiency across multiple languages and domains has the potential to bridge gaps in global education and democratize knowledge for individuals from all walks of life, thereby empowering self-directed learning.

The future of education may also be paved by the usage of AI technologies like ChatGPT. Open learning, or the usage of OER and other open educational practices, is becoming more and more well-liked as a means of increasing access to and affordability of education. The addition of AI tools into open learning settings, like ChatGPT, has the potential to improve learning even more and boost learner autonomy.

ChatGPT might have important future effects on autodidactic learning, which call for more research. In the context of autodidactic learning, it is crucial to keep in mind that Chat GPT is still a relatively new technology, and more study is required to properly grasp its potential and restrictions. It will be fascinating to observe how Chat GPT and other AI technologies develop through time and how they affect the subject of education.

References

- Brown, T. B., Mann, B., Ryder, N., Subbiah, M., Kaplan, J., Dhariwal, P., ... Zaremba, W. (2020). Language models are few-shot learners. *arXiv preprint arXiv*:2005.14165.
- Candy, P. C. (1991). Self-direction for lifelong learning: A comprehensive guide to theory and practice. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Caswell, T., Henson, S., Jensen, M., & Wiley, D. (2008). Open educational resources: Enabling universal education. *International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning*, 9(1), 1-11.
- Patil, A. S., & Abraham, A. (2010). Intelligent and Interactive Web-Based Tutoring System in Engineering Education: Reviews, Perspectives and Development. In *Computational Intelligence for Technology Enhanced Learning* (pp. 79-97). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.
- Garrison, D. R. (1997). Self-directed learning: Toward a comprehensive model. *Adult education quarterly*, 48(1), 18-33.
- Gureckis, T. M., & Markant, D. B. (2012). Self-directed learning: A cognitive and computational perspective. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 7(5), 464-481.
- Heaven, W. D. (2022). Language models like GPT-3 could herald a new type of search engine. In *Ethics of Data and Analytics* (pp. 57-59). Auerbach Publications.
- Haque, M. U., Dharmadasa, I., Sworna, Z. T., Rajapakse, R. N., & Ahmad, H. (2022)."I think this is the most disruptive technology": Exploring Sentiments of ChatGPT Early Adopters using Twitter Data. *arXiv* preprint *arXiv*:2212.05856.
- LeCun, Y., Bengio, Y., & Hinton, G. (2015). Deep learning. Nature, 521(7553), 436-444.
- Manning, L. D., Jones, J. E., Buehlman, V., Deal, J. M., & Showalter, L. J. (2022). A Center-Based Model for Self-Directed Learning in Sustainability: Engaging Campus and Community as a Living Lab. In *Self-Directed Learning and the Academic Evolution From Pedagogy to Andragogy* (pp. 97-118). IGI Global.
- OpenAI. (2023). *Chat GPT*. Retrieved from https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/ on 2 January 2023.
- Selwyn, N. (2012). Education in a digital world: Global perspectives on technology and education. Routledge.

- Schweder, S., & Raufelder, D. (2022). Adolescents' enjoyment and effort in class: Influenced by self-directed learning intervals. *Journal of School Psychology*, 95, 72-89.
- Srinivasa, K. G., Kurni, M., & Saritha, K. (2022). Harnessing the Power of AI to Education. In *Learning, Teaching, and Assessment Methods for Contemporary Learners* (pp. 311-342). Springer, Singapore.
- Pham, S. T., & Sampson, P. M. (2022). The development of artificial intelligence in education: A review in context. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, 38(5), 1408-1421.
- Zhou, Z. H. (2021). Machine learning. Springer Nature.